

HOWARD ROME MARTIN & RIDLEY LLP
1900 O'FARRELL STREET, SUITE 280
SAN MATEO, CA 94403
TELEPHONE (650) 365-7715

TODD H. MASTER [SBN. 185881]
tmaster@hrmrlaw.com
HOWARD ROME MARTIN & RIDLEY LLP
1900 O'Farrell Street, Suite 280
San Mateo, CA 94403
Telephone: (650) 365-7715
Facsimile: (650) 364-5297

Attorneys for Defendants
CITY OF MENLO PARK and
DAVE BERTINI

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO

MICHAEL ZELENY, an individual

Plaintiff,

vs.

EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., an individual, in
his official capacity, et al.

Defendants.

Case No. 17-cv-07357-RS (TSH)

**DECLARATION OF TODD H. MASTER IN
OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFF'S MOTION
TO COMPEL CHIEF DAVE BERTINI TO
ANSWER DEPOSITION QUESTIONS**

Date: November 19, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Courtroom: G, 15th Floor

I, TODD H. MASTER, declare:

1. I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth in this declaration and, if called as a witness, could and would competently testify thereto.

2. I am a partner at the firm of Howard, Rome, Martin & Ridley LLP and am the attorney for Defendants CITY OF MENLO PARK and DAVE BERTINI (collectively, "defendants") in this litigation.

HOWARD ROME MARTIN & RIDLEY LLP
1900 O'FARRELL STREET, SUITE 280
SAN MATEO, CA 94403
TELEPHONE (650) 365-7715

1 3. I write and file this declaration in response to the supplemental declaration filed by
2 plaintiff's counsel, Damien Robinson, contained within Document 155 at pages 8 and 9.

3 4. I choose to ignore the personal attacks contained in Mr. Robinson's declaration,
4 which lack any merit, and focus on the allegation that I or my client are somehow responsible for
5 plaintiff's failure to follow the Discovery Standing Order in this case requiring the parties to file a
6 joint brief on the discovery matters at issue in the instant motion (as opposed to the improperly
7 filed motion).

8 5. As Mr. Robinson correctly states in his declaration, he sent me an email on Sunday,
9 September 27, 2020, wishing to meet and confer about answers provided at Defendant Chief Dave
10 Bertini's depositions of March 19, 2019 and August 7, 2020. Unfortunately, I did not see Mr.
11 Robinson's September 27, 2020 email until he drew my attention to it in a Wednesday, October 7,
12 2020 email. *See* Exh. 1 in Document 150-1 for a true and correct copy of my email exchange with
13 Mr. Robinson concerning same.

14 6. I responded immediately to counsel's October 7, 2020 email, apologizing and
15 advising that I had not seen the September 27, 2020 email and that, due to my current schedule, I
16 would set aside time over the coming weekend to review his concerns. Mr. Robinson responded by
17 advising that he needed to discuss these matters "today or tomorrow" given a motion deadline of
18 October 9, 2020. It is worthy to note that I did not receive any other emails or telephone calls from
19 Mr. Robinson or his office between September 27th and October 7th.

20 7. I wrote to Mr. Robinson that I had a little time the following day whilst in transit to
21 discuss the matter, and we agreed to talk at 1:15 p.m. on October 8th (I had an opening between
22 1:15 and 1:45). Unfortunately, Mr. Robinson did not call me during that time period, instead
23 calling me later in the day.

24 8. Notwithstanding the short notice and my work schedule, I made time on the
25 morning of Friday, October 9th to more fully review plaintiff's stated concerns and sent Mr.
26 Robinson an email with my preliminary response to his complaints at approximately 10:41 a.m.
That email is contained within Exh. 1 to Mr. Robinson's declaration.

1 9. I did not hear back from Mr. Robinson until 4:17 p.m. on October 9, 2020, when he
2 sent me an email advising that we were at an impasse and that we would “have to let the court
3 decide.” *See* Exh. 1. I assumed that we would be presenting a joint letter to Magistrate Hixson in
4 accordance with the Discovery Standing Order, but Mr. Robinson instead filed the instant motion
5 at or about 5:10 p.m., according to the notice my office received from the CF/ECF system.

6 10. At no time during the aforementioned email exchange or my telephone conversation
7 with Mr. Robinson did he ever claim or contend that he did not have time to comply with the
8 Standing Discovery Order. In point of fact, his office had filed prior joint letters with Magistrate
9 Judge Thomas Hixson (*see*, e.g., Documents 127 and 135). Mr. Robinson also had my email from
10 the morning of October 9th, which could have readily been added to such a joint letter.

11 11. While it is our position that plaintiff’s failure to comply with the Court’s Discovery
12 Standing Order prohibits him from seeking the relief requested herein, should the Court desire, we
13 are prepared to address plaintiff’s claims substantive in whatever form the Court desires. We did
14 not provide a substantive response to plaintiff’s discovery claims in law and motion form due to
15 Magistrate Judge Hixson’s clear order prohibiting such pleadings.

16 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United
17 States of America that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on
18 this 5th day of November 2020, at San Mateo, California.

19 

20
21 _____
Todd H. Master